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well as the Western Protectorate, but in practice they have been far too busy in recent years dealing with Yemeni-inspired raiding and other disturbances in the Western Protectorate and only once in their history have they been employed in the Hadhramaut. The Levies have had heavy responsibilities and very hard has been their lot and very scanty the praise that those brave men have received. Shortly before my term of office expired a detachment of regular troops from the Army was stationed in Aden, to my great satisfaction. They were invaluable.

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So far I have dealt solely with the Land Forces, but with only a few thousand men, possibly 4,000 in all, however well trained and however well armed and led, it would be virtually impossible to safeguard a frontier line of over 700 miles in length running through the most difficult country from aggression, and at the same time to maintain any reasonable degree of security in an area where social conditions today are equivalent to those existing in the Highlands of Scotland in the mid-eighteenth century, and which is twenty-five per cent. larger than the United Kingdom. That the frontier has been maintained and that security has increased of recent years is due very largely to the Royal Air Force, acting in the closest accord with the ground forces. Without the Royal Air Force my task would indeed have been difficult; I will go further and say quite frankly it would have been impossible.

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As Governor I frequently had to authorise the use of air action against frontier raiders or recalcitrant tribesmen within Protectorate limits, and I have never been able to follow the almost hysterical reaction with which some sections of the population of these islands are affected whenever they read in the newspapers that bombing has taken place, or indeed that any form of air action has been used. It is for this reason that I shall deal at some length with that most humane of all the various methods by which law and order can be maintained by force, the employment of aircraft.

I do not propose to enter the lists on the side of those who favour this form of policing, nor do I propose to side with the many people who have genuine misgivings, but I am going

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648 astonishing. He was certainly not an indifferent shot with a rifle
643 and surprised Bill Goode on one occasion by shooting a chikor
(hill partridge) with a .303 Lee-Enfield rifle when the bird was
000 actually in flight. He was acting for his uncle, the old Amir
Nasser, who, since the murderous attack at Christmas time in
1950 on Major Basil Seager, C.M.G., O.B.E., at that time
British Agent for the Western Protectorate, was living in
retirement at Lahej.

Once we had got up the rather difficult final pass on to the
plateau the last few miles of the drive through the low hills
were quite delightful. The air was cool and the country green,
and the Naib's Tribal Guards and tribesmen on the hilltops
guarding our passage and firing shots of welcome in the air as
we drove past were a romantic and picturesque sight.

361 We went straight to the Political Officer's house a mile or so
0712 from the old grey town of Dhala, which looked as sinister as
ever as it straggled up the hillside to the ancient castle on the
summit. There I met the notables and tribal leaders who had
gathered in strength, while the guns of the castle slowly—oh, so
slowly—fired a seventeen-gun salute. The guns were very old,
and it was more dangerous to be behind them than in front of
them. They had a tendency to explode if too much black
powder was used in the charge, and there had been a nasty
accident some few months earlier at the time of the Idd
celebrations which had reduced the number of guns and
gunners available for ceremonial purposes.

648 After the tribesmen and the notables had taken their depar-
ture, the Naib and I, with the Political Officer, went into the
latter's office and talked about local affairs. Among other things
the Naib deplored the kindness shown by the Imam to the
Amir Haidera, his cousin and the son of the old Amir Nasser,
who had been a power in the land until his conduct had become
quite outrageous and a climax had been reached when he seized
the Treasury and revolted against his father. We took action
to bring him to reason, but he fled across the frontier and found
refuge in the Yemen town of Qataba, from which place he
never ceased to intrigue in the Amirate. Just before sunset the
Naib said farewell and went off across the plain to his house just

Travels in the Protectorate

with us and was now returning to his work somewhere on the Abiyan plain. I had no armed escort from the Government Guards. The safety of my companions and myself rested with the Sultan who was fully prepared to accept his responsibility. In fact, if I had attempted to take an armed escort on this particular trip, we would almost certainly have never got to Al Qara at all. The independent-minded tribesmen would undoubtedly have resisted the movement of armed men into their country and we should have been faced with the alternative of turning back or having to force a passage. Not really an alternative because I had not, in those days, a sufficient force at my disposal to overcome spirited resistance from thousands of tribesmen in that tangle of hills.

QUAITI

Both during my term of office as Governor and during my earlier periods of service in Aden I paid frequent visits to Mukalla, the capital of the Quaiti State in the Eastern Aden Protectorate, which nestles below a high hill feature on which stand the now empty watch towers that in days gone by protected the wealthy merchants of the town from bedouin raiders. Mukalla has a fascinating little harbour and the town is grouped attractively round a bay filled with the bluest water that I have ever seen. Viewed from the broad beach outside the ancient gateway as the sun is setting, the town and the hill behind it are suffused with a golden light, and the slender white minarets of the Mosques are a delicate shade of pink. It is really beautiful.

Here in Mukalla are not only the business houses of the merchants who trade with the Far East and Aden and supply the Hadhramaut with its innumerable wants, but also the palace of the Sultan, the British Residency, and the Government Offices of the Quaiti administration. Outside the walls of the town are the depot of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion and the barracks of the Mukalla Regular Army and the Quaiti Armed Constabulary. Here also is the Bedouin Boys' School, a boarding school for the sons of tribesmen run by the State on the

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000 inexhaustible energy had reduced me to a physical and nervous wreck—and I was the younger man.

361 Near Mukalla to the east beyond the landing ground at

346 Riyan is the collegiate town of Ghil-Ba-Wazir, so called by

249 me because it seemed to consist of nothing but schools sur-

439 rounded by a few fields of Hammumi tobacco which normally

871 was exported to Egypt via Aden. Primary schools and a large

[875] State Intermediate School with a considerable boarding

establishment catered for the youth of Mukalla and the more

advanced pupils from all over the State. The masters, who were

local men or Sudanese on contract, always left me with an

impression of keenness, competence and contentment. From

Ghil-Ba-Wazir the more promising pupils went on to Aden

College or the Technical Institute in Aden, or to a Secondary

School in the Sudan, depending on the inclination of the

parents or of the Mukalla Government if they were financing

the boys' further education.

315 Up in the vast open spaces of the northern limits of the State, survey parties of Petroleum Concessions Ltd. moved farther and farther into territory which was practically unknown to Europeans, on their ceaseless quest for oil, spurred on by recent increases in the cost of their prospecting licence. As these parties pushed their way northwards so did similar parties from the Arabian-American Oil Company at Dhahran on the Persian Gulf in Saudi Arabia move steadily southward with their portable drilling rigs drawn by great tractors and their air-conditioned living caravans, across the great yellow sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali.

• 712 The frontier became of considerable importance, much more

312 so than it had ever been before and we found it advisable to

626 exercise a greater degree of control over our tribes than had

been necessary or desirable in the past. The Sultan was concerned about the peace of these northern marches, and, fearing

an act of aggression, felt that steps should be taken to safeguard

the well at Thamud, the only available water for many miles

around. This was done by building a fort, constructing a land-

ing strip and flying in a garrison of soldiers of the Hadhrami

Bedouin Legion. Later, similar measures were taken over to

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the east at Sanau where the only well was between Thamud and the Aden-Muscat frontier. These two places lie to the south of the great sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali amidst country more desolate than I have ever seen in any part of the world, and in my time I have flown over, driven over or walked and ridden over some pretty uninviting country.

I went to Thamud for the first time in 1953, before the fort had been built, to inspect the detachment of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion who were living in holes scraped out of the hard sand and furnished with a canvas roof as some protection against the fierce heat of the sun. It was not easy to pick up the well from the air in that featureless country and it reflects great credit on the navigator and the pilot of the 'plane that they found the landing strip at the first attempt. We landed a mile or so from the well, and the only signs of life as we drove to the well were the store-cum-hospital tent, a modest affair of some 160 lbs., which normally would sleep a dozen men, and the two much smaller tents of the Military Assistant to the Resident Adviser and the Commandant of the Legion who had joined the detachment temporarily, the former a Scot from the Highlands and the latter a stout and jovial Arab on secondment from the Arab Legion in Trans-Jordan.

A guard was mounted, which I inspected, and I do not recall ever having seen a better turned-out or smarter body of men anywhere. These men, who are recruited from the bedouin tribes, are responsible among other things for guarding the long Aden-Saudi Arabian frontier, and they do their work very well. They work under the direct control of their own Arab officers who command the Frontier Posts and who are responsible for the motor patrols which operate between the Posts. These motor patrols are equipped with Land-Rovers and carry portable wireless sets which enable them to keep in touch with their parent Post. The Military Assistant is stationed hundreds of miles away in Mukalla where the Commandant also has his headquarters, so that these Arab officers and their men are normally very much on their own and quickly learn to use their own initiative in dealing with sudden emergencies and solving the various problems which are the normal lot of

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2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

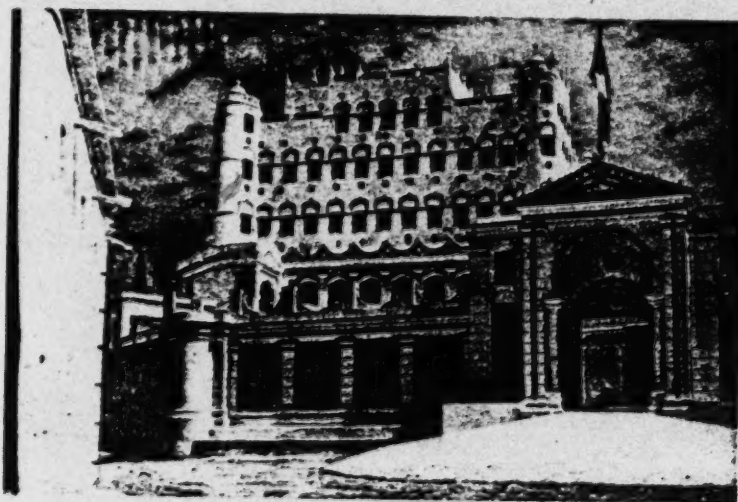


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THE WELL BELOW A HADIRAMI BEDOUIN LEGION POST IN THE NORTHERN DESERT



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THE KATHINI SULTAN'S PALACE AT SAIYUN

[facing p. 146]

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1
Yemen MLI

From the "Upper Circle" 1958

locally in increasing the prestige of the Imam. As a threat to anyone they are not worthy of consideration and should prove an easy target for aircraft should the need to obliterate them ever arise. Perim is no longer of any military importance and has not been garrisoned since 1928 and has had no commercial importance since Lambert Brothers or the Perim Coal Company closed down some twenty years ago. The only claim to be of use that the island can make is that it is the site of two essential lighthouses, and even in this respect it is a nuisance as the presence of the lighthouses necessitates the maintenance on the island of a detachment of Armed Police. As there is no water on the island a condenser has to be manned and maintained to provide the lighthouse crews and the police with drinking water. Altogether Perim has become rather more of a liability than an asset.

I think it most unlikely that there ever has been any intention of the Yemen or Egypt to construct a submarine base at the southern end of the Red Sea. It would be most uncomfortable in the summer, within easy range of aircraft from Aden and altogether rather pointless. Submarines will probably visit Hodeidah if they have Commanders sufficiently skilful and intrepid to navigate through the reefs which surround that place, and they may call at Mocha farther south, but I see no menace to anyone in this and can only hope that Russian and Chinese gold and dollars will be wasted on so fruitless an enterprise.

The highlights of this otherwise rather gloomy picture are the loyalty of the Protectorate Forces and the renewed interest of the Protectorate States in the Federation plan. The Aden Protectorate Levies and the Government Guards consist, as we know, entirely of Arabs from the Protectorate States with British and Arab officers; in the Government Guards of equal status in the higher ranks. Their bravery and devotion to duty under continuous and almost intolerable strain has been outstanding, and they have won the admiration and respect of everyone by their work for their country in whose defence they have always been ready to lay down their lives.

Under the continued spur of Yemen aggression and subversion the States of the Protectorate seem at last to have realised

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ANNUAL REPORT: ADEN COLONY

646 Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 *ex-officio* members, not more than 4 official members, and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

643 The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

692 The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari'a code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Quaiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Quaiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

632 During 1947 the local government of the Colony remained vested in the two Township Authorities, the larger being vested in the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embracing the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 21,000 persons, all non-European, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area covered by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket-making and lime-burning, and who look to the built-up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

[643] The members of the Boards which administer the local government of these two areas are at present appointed by the Governor. The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings to superintend the various municipal services such as the control of markets, the maintenance of public health and sanitary services and roads, the provision of recreational facilities for the public and the control of building operations. It has still been found necessary to maintain foodstuff stalls in the public markets in order to ensure that the majority of the population can purchase essential foodstuffs, such as sugar and rice, at Government controlled prices.

443 During the year the Authorities opened a new market for petty traders and hawkers, a new public bathing-place where baths, with soap and towels provided, can be secured at a nominal fee, and a new cattle stable to accommodate 350 milk cows at Sheikh Othman.

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PART III

Chapter I : Geography and Climate

131 THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude $12^{\circ} 47' N.$ and longitude $45^{\circ} 10' E.$, about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises :

361 712 504 (a) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maalla.

(b) The Isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(c) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

(d) The island of Perim.

133 361 The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation ; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula.

712 241 The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit-garden belonging to the Township Authority. There are also privately owned date-palms there.

[423] Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

317 Salt is manufactured in large quantities on the flat shores of the bay, by the process of solar evaporation.

133 504 Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance ; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour

ADMINISTRATION

Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. In the past there has been pearl fishing, but this year no pearl fishing contract was taken.

There is a small Police detachment in the island together with medical staff and lighthouse staff.

There is no natural water supply on the island; sea-water distilling plant provides sufficient water for the supply of the population and for the occasional ship which comes in for emergency water supplies.

Up to the end of 1948 Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication by marine cable. The cable became unserviceable in 1948, and it was decided not to repair it. It is likely that communication will soon be established by wireless. A R.A.F. airplane makes a flight to the island once weekly and carries mail and passengers from Aden.

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The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings in the exercise of their functions of superintending various services of municipal character, such as control of markets, maintenance of public health and sanitary

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